

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 DHA-02 A-01 L-03

CPR-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /048 W

----- 123085

P 231420Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6009

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 8485

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, CASC (PROUTY, GORDON K.)

SUBJECT: SIEZURE OF OFFICIAL PASSPORT OF USAID OFFICER

REF: LAGOS 7865

1. OFFICIAL PASSPORT OF FOOD FOR PEACE OFFICER GORDON PROUTY WAS SEIZED AT IMMIGRATION/CUSTOMS DESK, MURTALA MUHAMMED AIRPORT, JULY 10, AS PROUTY WAS ABOUT TO BOARD AIR TOGO FLIGHT FOR OME.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS MORNING OF JULY 12, TO ASK FOR RETURN OF PASSPORT, PRESENTING RECEIPT WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO PROUTY AT AIRPORT. POLICE REFUSED TO DISCUSS MATTER OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT AS PROUTY WAS "NOT A DIPLOMAT", HE WOULD HAVE TO OBEY THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE RECEIPT AND PERSONALLY APPEAR "FOR INTERVIEW". EMBASSY THEN HAND DELIVERED NOTE TO MEA ASKING MINISTRY TO INTERCEDE AND OBTAIN RETURN OF PASSPORT.

3. DESPITE DAILY INQUIRIES AT MEA, AND PHONE CALLS FROM MEAN TO POLICE, PASSPORT STILL HAS NOT BEEN RETURNED. PROUTY CANNOT TRAVEL TO PERFORM REGIONAL DUTIES AND HAS BEEN LIVING WITH CONSULAR OFFICER TO WARD OFF POSSIBILITY OF SURPRISE VISIT BY POLICE AT HIS RESIDENCE AND REPEAT OF EARLIER COMPLICATIONS.

4. EMBASSY HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT THERE PROBABLY HAS BEEN A BUREAUCRATIC MIX-UP AND HAS SOUGHT TO RESOLVE WITH PATIENCE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENTLE PERSUASION. HOWEVER, THIS TACTIC HAS NOT BEEN FRUITFUL AND

A FRESH STIMULUS SEEMS TO BE NEEDED. THEREFORE, WE SUGGEST THAT  
AMBASSADOR SANU BE CALLED IN AND TOLD OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE  
VIEW THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT. MATTER HAS NOW  
DRAGGED ON SINCE JULY 3, WHEN PROUTY FIRST DETAINED IN POLICE CELL.  
WE HAD HOPED MATTER ENDED WITH RETURN OF PASSPORT ON JULY 8, BUT  
THAT OBVIOUSLY NOT THE CASE. EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH TO ESCULATE  
TONE OF THIS AFFAIR BUT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE. WOULD APPRECIATE  
KNOWING DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.  
CROSBY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LAGOS08485  
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**Film Number:** D760284-0478  
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**Subject:** SIEZURE OF OFFICIAL PASSPORT OF USAID OFFICER  
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